

6 July 2006

Mr. Robert Fry
24 Fleshman Cr. Road #1
Livingston, Montana, 59047

Dear Bob:

Attached is the NIMS Implementation Report you requested electronically. As you know, our LEPC spent a couple months earlier this year assessing the state of Madison County NIMS compliance. My signed report is based upon that assessment, a copy of which is attached as a part of the report.

One area that continues to cause us problems with NIMS compliance is the determination of standards to be applied (see item 12) to our "response assets". I have been unable to locate a concise, definitive set of such standards to use.

A second point that I feel compelled to bring to your attention with this report is that, while it is one thing to assess and comply with NIMS at the county level, it is quite another to do so at the agency level. Getting the individual VFDs, for example, to routinely use ICS is tough and gets varied results depending upon the situation and the entity involved. Similarly, establishing plain language as the norm for public safety communications vice "ten-codes" and other traditional communications shortcuts is a slow, laborious process with, again, spotty results. But we are working on it and each week sees some progress.

I hope this document will be of some value and provide the information you need.

Yours truly,

Frank Ford
Director of Emergency Management